

## **REMARKS**

Claims 2-21, 23-29, 32 and 33 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 22, 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Komatsu et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,512,578). Claims 1, 22, 30 and 31 were cancelled without prejudice regarding their subject matter in order to bring the patent application to early allowance. Therefore these rejections are now moot. For the record, Applicants disagree that Komatsu et al. anticipates claims 1, 22, 30, and 31, and reserve the right to seek examination of these claims in a future continuation application.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komatsu et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,512,578). Claims 2 and 3 were amended to depend from claim 4, which is allowable, as discussed below. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner states that claims 4-21, 23-26, 32, 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 4, 23, 32, and 33 to

include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining claims 5-21 and 24-26 are now in proper form. Therefore, claims 4-21, 23-26, 32, and 33 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 27-29 were allowed.

#### **CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1295.

Respectfully submitted,

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